Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [017] with the following amended paragraph:

[017]   Turning now to Figure 1, a communication channel established between a pair of telephone devices 12 and 14 over a network 16 is shown and is generally identified by reference numeral 10. As can be seen, when a communication channel is established between the telephone devices 12 and 14, acoustic signals 18 broadcast by the handset speaker 20 of receiving telephone device 14 are acoustically coupled to the handset microphone 22 of the telephone device 14. The echo signals picked up by the handset microphone 22 as a result of the acoustic coupling cause echoes in the network 16, which degrade voice quality. If the delay in the network 16 is long, such as for example 150ms, which may be caused by voice packetization and local area network (LAN) propagation delays, echoes in the network 16 as a result of the acoustic coupling become ~~audile~~ <u>audible thereby</u> detracting from voice quality.

Please replace paragraph [028] with the following amended paragraph:

[028]   Appendix B illustrates power level calculation and mask selection routines of the echo suppression algorithm used to calculate the power level of the signal broadcast by the handset speaker 20 and to select the appropriate suppression mask based on the calculated power level. During execution of the power level calculation routine, an envelope following the power level of the signal broadcast by the handset speaker 20 is generated using an infinite impulse response (IIR) lowpass filter. The IIR filter generates the envelope by estimating the long-range average of the absolute value of the signal broadcast by the handset speaker 20 and is of the form:

$$AbsY = (1\text{-alpha})AbsY + alpha* \ AbsY0 \qquad\qquad (3)$$

<u>Y is the power level of the current monitored signal and Y0 is the power level of a previously monitored signal.</u> Alpha is an IIR filter parameter and is chosen to provide a fast attack time and a slow decay time for the IIR filter. In the present embodiment, two different values for alpha are used, namely alpha_fast and alpha_slow depending on the power level of the signal broadcast by the handset speaker 20. Once the envelope has been generated, the DSP 60 selects the suppression mask in accordance with the mask selection routine.